

**ANIMAL MATTERS HEARING BOARD
FOR CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND
MINUTES OF MEETING
Tuesday, March 17, 2015**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Animal Control Board for Charles County, Maryland, was convened by the Chairman at 6:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, Charles County Government Building, with the following Board members in attendance.

Andrew Parker, Chairman
Mandy Foreman, Vice-Chairman
Sean Brown
William Van Blarcum
Kristin Lake
Leigha Messick
Maria Padgett
Elizabeth Theobalds, Acting County Attorney
Lisa Bailey, Clerk
Melody Weschler, Clerk

A quorum was declared based upon the presence of a majority of the appointed Board Members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Animal Matters Hearing Board for February 3, 2015, were approved and adopted.

Citation No. 6480 – issued to Agnes Mahogany Carter, 307 Jennie Run Drive, La Plata, Maryland, for the alleged violations of Section 230-12 and Section 230-12.6.C of the Charles County Animal Regulations for her dog, "Gizmo". Ms. Carter was present at the hearing and not represented by counsel. Testimony was heard from Animal Control Officer Kevin Earle and Ms. Carter. Entered into evidence was the invoice from Tri-County Animal Shelter for boarding charges. Ms. Carter admitted to being in violation of the charges of animal at large and third and any subsequent impoundments within 12 months. Ms. Carter stated that repairs have been made to stop the dog from running at large.

Based on the testimony and evidence presented, Vice Chairman, Amanda Foreman made a motion to find Ms. Carter in violation for both citations and issued a fine of \$100, and the condition that Ms. Carter will make sure all repairs are completed so that the dog will not be at large. Ms. Carter was also given the invoice for the Tri-County Animal Shelter boarding fees in the amount of \$170. A second was made by Kristin Lake and the vote passed unanimously. Payment of the fine is due by April 7, 2015.

Citation No. 6437 – issued to Blake Lamont Roberts, 2515 Brigham Court, Waldorf, Maryland, for the alleged violation of Section 230-12 of the Charles County Animal Regulations for his dog, "Indy". Mr. Roberts was present and not represented by counsel. Testimony was heard from Animal Control Officer Jeff Thomas and Mr. Roberts. Mr. Roberts admitted to being in violation of the charge of animal at large.

Based on the testimony and evidence presented, Vice Chairman Amanda Foreman made a motion to find Mr. Roberts in violation of the citation and issued a fine of \$50, suspending \$35, for a total fine of \$15.00, with the condition that all necessary precautions are made that the dog is not at large. A second was made by Kristin Lake and the vote passed unanimously. Payment of the fine is due by April 7, 2015.

Citation No. 6425 - issued to Clifton Tyrone Linkins, 3451 Medway Street, Indian Head, Maryland, for the alleged violation of Section 230-8.A.6 of the Charles County Animal Regulations for his dog, "Precious". Mr. Linkins was present at the hearing and not represented by counsel. Testimony was heard from Animal Control Officer Jeff Thomas and Mr. Linkins. Entered into evidence were photos marked as AC Ex. 1. Mr. Linkins admitted to being in violation of the charge of animal cruelty.

Based on the testimony and evidence presented, Vice Chairman Amanda Foreman made a motion to find Mr. Linkins in violation of the citation and issued a fine of \$1,000, suspending \$700, for a total fine of \$300. A second was made by Maria Padgett and the vote passed unanimously. Payment of the fine is due by April 21, 2015.

Citation No. 6391 - issued to Christine Brann, 17241 Teagues Point Road, Hughesville, Maryland, for the alleged violations of Section 230-10.A, Section 230-9.A, Section 230-12.5 of the Charles County Animal Regulations for her dog, "Teagues". Ms. Brann was present at the hearing and not represented by counsel. Testimony was heard from Animal Control Officer Budd, Ms. Brann and Tyler McAuley. Entered into evidence were photos marked as AC Ex. 1 and Charles County Department of Health, Animal Contact Report and Rabies Quarantine Agreement marked as AC Ex. 2. Ms. Brann admitted to being in violation of the charges. Ms. Brann submitted a current license and a current rabies certificate for her dog.

Based on the testimony and evidence presented, Vice Chairman Amanda Foreman made a motion to find Ms. Brann in violation of the citation and issued a fine of \$250, suspending \$185, for a total fine of \$65.00, and the condition that Ms. Brann provide fencing appropriate so as to keep the dog restrained within its boundaries, that the electric fence was not adequate. Seconded by Kristin Lake, and the vote passed unanimously. Ms. Brann paid the fine with a check number 2947.

Citation No. 6389 – issued to Shannon Dorsey, 7086 Strawberry Avenue, Bryans Road, Maryland, for the alleged violation of Section 230-10.A, Section 230-12, Section 230-9.A, and Section 230-12.5 of the Charles County Animal Regulations for her dog, "Taz". Ms. Dorsey was present at the hearing and not represented by counsel. Testimony was heard from Animal Control Officer Alison Budd, Shannon Dorsey, Torey Dorsey and Officer Andy Fenlon, CCSO. Entered into evidence were Animal to Animal Contact Report and Quarantine Agreement marked as AC Ex. 1; Oakcrest Veterinary Clinic Patient Chart for Missy marked as AC Ex. 2; 14 pages of photos marked as AC Ex. 3. Mr. Dorsey objected to AC Ex. 4 and it was up not

provided to the Board. Ms. Dorsey admitted to being in violation of the charges. The dog was turned over to Animal Control and euthanized.

Based on the testimony and evidence presented, Vice Chairman Amanda Foreman made a motion to find Ms. Dorsey in violation of the citation and issued a fine of \$300, suspending \$130, for a total fine of \$170. Seconded by Sean Brown and the vote passed unanimously. Payment of the fine is due by April 21, 2015.

Citation No. 6390 - issued to Shannon Dorsey, 7086 Strawberry Avenue, Bryans Road, Maryland, for the alleged violation of Section 230-10.A, Section 230-12, Section 230-9.A, and Section 230-12.5 of the Charles County Animal Regulations for her dog, "Pinky". Ms. Dorsey was present at the hearing and not represented by counsel. Testimony was heard from Animal Control Officer Alison Budd, Shannon Dorsey, Torey Dorsey and Officer Andy Fenlon, CCSO. Ms. Dorsey admitted to being in violation of the charges. The dog was turned over to Animal Control and euthanized.

Based on the testimony and evidence presented, Vice Chairman Amanda Foreman made a motion to find Ms. Dorsey in violation of the citation and issued a fine of \$300, suspending \$130, for a total fine of \$170. Seconded by Sean Brown and the vote passed unanimously. Payment of the fine is due by April 21, 2015.

File No. 15-3 - The case of Jeanette Baker & Derick Peterson against Stephan Rogers Smith. Ms. Baker & Mr. Peterson were present and not represented by counsel. Stephanie Rogers was not present and Notice of Service was not verified. The Board apologized to Ms. Baker & Mr. Peterson and advised that the matter will be rescheduled and notice will be resent.

File No. 15-05 – The case of Shelly Kornegay against Omar Clark. The complainant, Shelly Kornegay was not present. The Owner, Mr. Clark was present and not represented by counsel. The Board dismissed the case due to the Complainant not showing at the hearing.

File No. 15-06 - The case of James H. Pearson, III against Mr. [& Mrs.] John Bassett. Both parties were present and not represented by counsel. Testimony was heard from James Person, Jacqueline Person, John Bassett, Megan Goodwin and John Bassett (son).

Based on the testimony heard, Vice Chairman Amanda Foreman made a motion to find Mr. Bassett in violation of Section 12.4.1(a) only, of the Charles County Animal Regulation. A second was made and the vote passed unanimously. Mr. Bassett was ordered to abate the nuisance, with a fine of \$50, all suspended.

Animal Control Officer Budd requested a Cease and Desist Order for Bridgett Rice, Celtic Acres Farm, 15090 B.R. Walls Place, Brandywine, Maryland 20613 for currently operating a breeding kennel without a valid Commercial Animal Establishment License. Her license expired December 26, 2014. Officer Budd requested that Ms. Rice be ordered to cease and desist any and all sales, transfers, or other dispositions of dogs in Charles County until properly licensed and that Ms. Rice appear for the next scheduled Animal Control Hearing on April 7th, 2015. Maria Padgett made a motion to allow the Cease and Desist Order, seconded, and the vote passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the hearing at 8:25 p.m.

